

Consolidation of School Districts Summary of Steps

Part 9 of the Revised School Code [MCL 380.851 – 380.871]

Effective January 1, 2005

Step	Authority	Person Responsible	Time Frame
1.	Two or more districts may consolidate to form a single district. [MCL 380.851]		
2.	A written request submitted to the ISD Superintendent by at least 10 school electors or by school board resolution of two or more school districts would initiate consolidation proceedings. [MCL 380.852]	School electors or local school boards	
3.	A written request is submitted to the state superintendent for approval to proceed with consolidation proceedings. Action by the state superintendent is final. [MCL 380.852]	ISD superintendent (If districts are located in more than one ISD, the ISD containing the largest portion of assessed value would take the lead.)	
4.	The school district filing official is notified to prepare petitions for circulation. [MCL 380.883]	ISD superintendent	Within 30 days after state superintendent approval.
5.	* Petitions are prepared with an expiration date of the 60 days after the school district filing official certifies the number of registered voters in each district. [MCL 380.853 – 380.856]	School district filing official	Within 30 days after state superintendent approval
6.	Petitions are circulated for signatures of not less 5% of the registered voters in each district and submitted to the school district filing official. [MCL 380.856]	School electors	Before expiration date and not more than 180 days after state superintendent approval
7.	Canvass petitions for required number of valid signatures. [MCL 380.855] Steps 4 -7 may be omitted in a school district operating 12 grades if a board resolution requesting consolidation has been filed with the ISD superintendent. [MCL 380.856]	School district filing official	
8.	Schedule and conduct the consolidation question for the next regular school election or special election. A school district operating 12 grades vote separately as a unit. The remaining school districts would vote together as a unit. [MCL 380.856 – 380.857]	School district filing official	
9.	Notice shall be provided to the secretary of each school board of the date of the consolidation election. [MCL 380.858]	School district filing official	60 days before election
10.	The assumption of bonded indebtedness of one or more of the districts; or an increase in the operating millage rate must be included in petition and ballot question. [MCL 380.860-864]	School district filing official	
11.	An affirmative vote would result in the consolidation being effective as of the date of the official canvass. [MCL 380.859]		

Step	Authority	Person Responsible	Time Frame
12.	Board members for the new consolidated school district are appointed to serve until January 1, unless the consolidated district's regular election is in May, until July 1. A new board would be elected at the first regular election held after the effective date of the consolidation. [MCL 380.861]	ISD board	Within 10 days of official canvas
13.	New board members file acceptance of office to ISD superintendent. [MCL 380.861]	New board members	Within 7 days after appointment
14.	All records, funds, and property belonging to the original school district are accounted and turned over to the new consolidated district. Upon receipt, the board officers of the original school district are released from liability and their offices terminated. [MCL 380.862]	Each original school district board	Within 20 days of effective date of consolidation